Original Rudolph

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Back in 1939, when Montgomery Ward & Company created Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer as a Christmas promotional, one of the original creations eventually took up residence in Mishicot, at the home of Jack and Carol Ronning, 910 Laduron St.

Mrs. Ronning said the family came into possession of the delightful deer about four years ago, when Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rust of Crown Point, Ind., friends of the family, didn't feel Rudolph was safe from the vandals of that area. They shipped it up to the Ronnings who have proudly placed it right by the door of the residence...red nose and all.

The friendship of the two families dates back many years to when Jack and Bob were childhood neighbors in the northern part of the state. The two parted and "lost each other" (Mrs. Ronning's words) for about 30 years, until Jack, working with Manitowoc Engineering Company in sales, and Bob, working with a dealer of Manitowoc Company productions in Chicago, "found' each other."

The presence of Rudolph, who is somewhat tattered because of his years , is just one of many signs of Christmas, both the spirit and the visual evidence, at the Ronning residence.

Mrs. Ronning's work in crafts is evident everywhere...from the ceramic decorations in the house to the ceramic nativity scene at the front window to the 200 hand-made, bead ornaments on the Christmas tree.

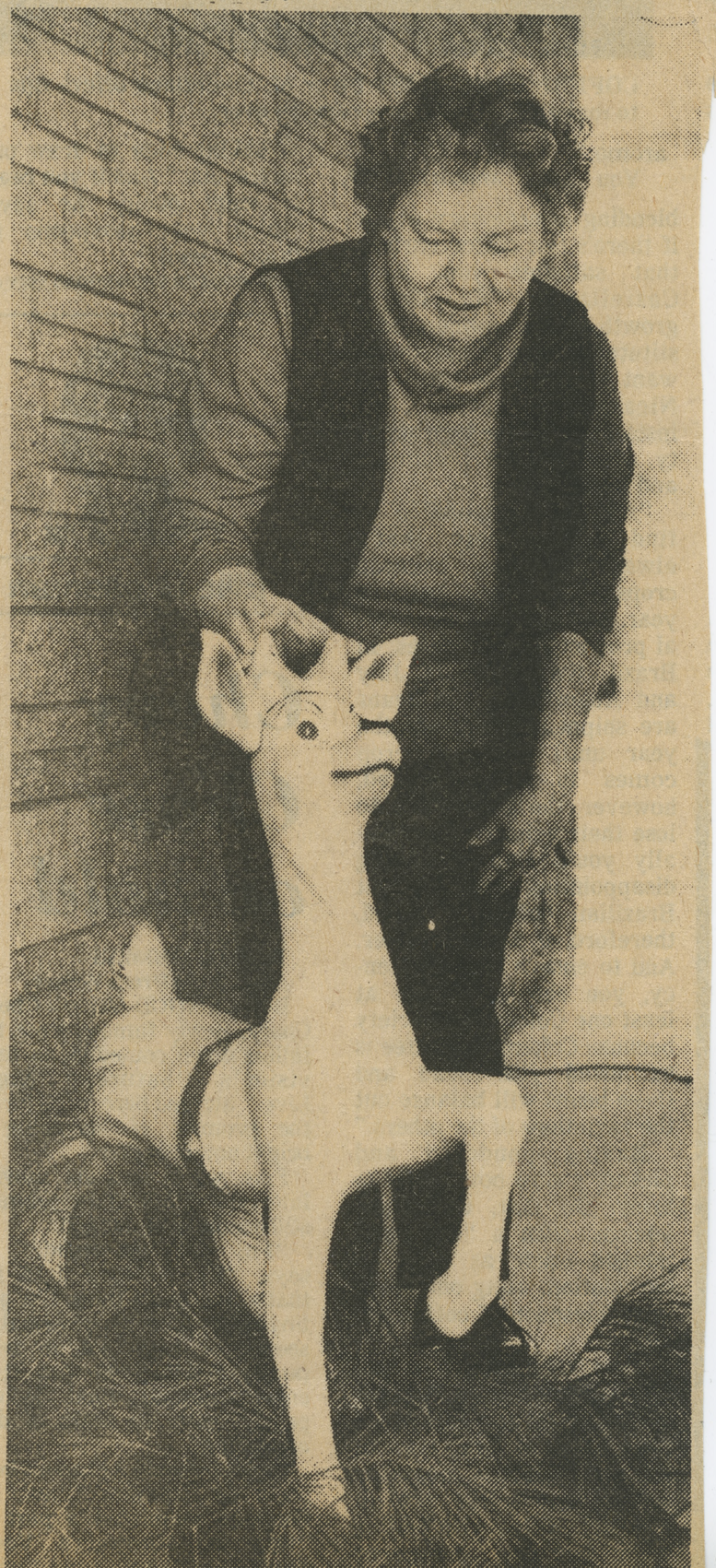
She confesses to having made some 25 nativity scenes, one for each of her 20 godchildren plus members of her family.

In addition, she said she usually wraps about 100 gifts to be given to children and friends, a figure somewhat down from the 300 to 500 of years past.

It seems that everyone gets something from the Ronnings at Christmas time...maybe a little gift, maybe a ceramic, or maybe just some homemade noodles or some other food item.

You see, Mrs. Ronning is a totally active person who wishes there were 48 hours in a day...because there "so much more I want to do."

The fruits of her labors are everywhere...decorations, gifts and craftwork...in addition to a lot of Christmas spirit.



Mrs. Ronning and Rudolph

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